

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A digital video recording and playback method adapted for "live-pause" recording and playback, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- a) ~~providing at least one~~ receiving a first electronic audio-visual program source;
- b) ~~via receiving a program guide source, at least providing~~ comprising program length information about a the first program ~~of interest~~;
- c) converting said program length information into a corresponding buffer memory size;
- d) establishing a buffer memory matching the buffer memory size determined in ~~step c); and~~
- e) recording ~~a selected~~ the first program in the buffer memory established in ~~step d); wherein said buffer memory size matches the size needed to record said~~ the first program ~~of interest; and~~
- f) playing back a portion of the recorded first program during a "live-pause" operation.

2. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, wherein said program length information comprises the scheduled end time of a the first program ~~of interest~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method in claim 1, wherein said program length information comprises the scheduled start time of a the first program ~~of interest~~.

4. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~

at the direction of a user, designating ~~a~~ the first program stored in said buffer memory for long-term storage.

5. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, wherein ~~for programs~~ if the first program is of indefinite length, said program length information comprises as a default, a fixed length.

6. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~

releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, ~~when~~ after the ~~current~~ first program has been recorded.

7. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~

releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a current~~ the first program, and

making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when a user tunes in to another program.

8. (Currently amended) The method in claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of:~~

releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if

needed, when a user directs that recording be halted.

9. (Currently amended) A digital video recording and playback system adapted for "live-pause" recording and playback, said system comprising:

a) ~~at least one electronic audio-visual~~ a tuner that receives a first program source;
b) ~~and a program guide source adapted to at least provide~~ comprising program length information about ~~a~~ the first program ~~of interest;~~

e) a converter adapted to convert said program length information into a corresponding buffer memory size; ~~and~~

d) at least one buffer memory established and sized to match that determined by said converter, said buffer memory being adapted to record ~~a selected~~ the first program; wherein said buffer memory size matches the size needed to record ~~a~~ the first program ~~of interest; and~~

a display that displays a portion of the recorded first program during a "live-pause" operation.

10. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said program length information comprises ~~the~~ a scheduled end time of ~~a~~ the first program ~~of interest.~~

11. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said program length information comprises ~~the~~ a scheduled start time of ~~a~~ the first program ~~of interest.~~

12. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said established buffer memory

is adapted to become, at the direction of a user, part of a long-term memory for the long-term storage of a the first program stored therein.

13. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein ~~for programs if the first~~ program is of indefinite length, said program length information comprises as a default, a fixed length.

14. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said established buffer memory is adapted to be released from recording ~~a current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when the ~~current~~ first program has been recorded.

15. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said established buffer memory is adapted to be released from recording ~~a current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when a user tunes in to another program.

16. (Currently amended) The system in claim 9, wherein said established buffer memory is adapted to be released from recording ~~a current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when a user directs ~~that the recording of the first program to~~ be halted.

17. (Currently amended) A digital video recording and playback method adapted for "live-pause" recording and playback, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- a) ~~providing at least one electronic audio-visual~~ receiving a first program source;
- b) adaptively establishing a buffer memory having a size adequate to record ~~a~~ the first program of interest; and
- c) recording ~~a selected~~ the first program in the buffer memory established in step b); and
- d) playing back a portion of the recorded first program during a "live-pause" operation.

18. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, wherein the size of said buffer memory is set to one of a plurality of fixed sizes to match an estimated size of ~~a~~ the first program ~~of interest.~~

19. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of:~~

at the direction of a user, designating ~~a~~ the first program stored in said buffer memory for long-term storage.

20. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of:~~

releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when the ~~current~~ first program has been recorded.

21. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of:~~

releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when a user tunes in to another program.

22. (Currently amended) The method in claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of:~~

releasing said established buffer memory from recording ~~a current~~ the first program, and making its memory space available to part of another buffer memory if needed, when a user directs that recording of the first program be halted.

23-28. (Cancelled)